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County Life

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Recycling that tree

By Steve Galea

Now that we have passed Christmas, there are certain housekeeping duties to attend to. First, dads need to get to the camera and erase those photos of you receiving yet another bottle of cheap cologne. You don't want the kids to remember you that way.

Next, we must deal with a mountain of cardboard and wrapping papers. And finally, we must attend to the tree.

This is the most fearsome job of the three.

Luckily the cats have already stripped it of all decorations. The next step is not just to get rid of it but to find an alternate use for it. A tree, after all, should be a renewable resource.

Here are 10 suggestions to make it so.

1. Cut off branches and sell them to survivalists as natural toothbrushes.
2. Stand it in the snow beside your bird feeder and have fun watching squirrels jump into it and cling on for dear life as it falls over. It is better if the tree is set up on a steep slope.
3. Depending on the size of the tree or your vehicle, hang it from your rearview mirror as an air freshener.
4. Shake all the needles off of them and, over the course of the year, keep planting a few under the evergreen air freshener your friends have in their cars.
5. Take it in the woods, brandish an axe, and yell to the other trees, "This is what happens when you don't cooperate!"
6. Shake all the needles off, place it in the front yard and tell the kids "there's a naked tree out there." They'll giggle for hours.
7. Try to take it back for a refund. Say, "Evergreen? Yeah right."
8. Give it to a friend and say, "Here, I think you can provide a better home than we did." Then walk away sobbing.
9. Take it to IKEA and tell them it was supposed to be a green desk and you assembled it wrong. Ask them to fix it.
10. Take it back to the woods and release it into the wild. Do an award-winning documentary about the experience.

Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!
from Council & Staff at Minden Hills!

Our Holiday Hours

Administration Office
Wed December 24th - 8:30 to 11:30
Thurs December 25th Closed
Fri December 26th Closed
Mon December 29th
& Tues December 30th - Regular hours resume
Wed December 31st (New Year's Eve)- 8:30 to 11:30
Thurs January 1st Closed
Fri January 2nd Closed
Mon January 5th - Regular hours resume

Landfill Sites
Thurs December 25th - All sites are closed
Thurs January 1st - All sites are closed

Cultural Centre
Sun December 21st to
Sunday, December 28th Closed
Mon December 29th - 11:00 to 4:00
Tues December 30th - 11:00 to 4:00
Wed December 31st to
Sun January 5th Closed
Mon January 6th
Regular hours resume

The Township of Minden Hills

Enjoy the Holidays with family and friends!

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Reminder to secure cottages

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police wants to remind residents to ensure seasonal residences are secured in the off season. Cottages and summer homes are most vulnerable to thieves from the week following Thanksgiving to the weeks prior to Victoria Day, especially if the owners are not using them for fall, winter or spring getaways.

Remember, if there is no one living at it or checking it regularly, the cost of owning a seasonal property includes the frustration and irritation of repairing damage and replacing stolen property.

Tips to Consider:

- Pack up all food and alcohol.
- Don't leave firearms or weapons at the cottage.
- If you are leaving vehicles, make sure they're winterized, secure and disabled – for snow machines remove track and hide keys; ensure boats are covered and locked; outboard motors locked and slightly disassembled; ATVs disabled – leave nothing on trailers unless it is locked or disabled.
- Leave no valuables at cottage – electronics, personal items, tools etc. unless you are prepared to lose them.
- Who is your contact (key holder) for: alarms, thefts, weather damage or animal problems? Do you have their contact information and numbers? Are they paid to check your cottage regularly or are they friends/neighbours? Your insurance company may give you a deduction if you have one.
- Secure your windows and doors - close window curtains or blinds and put up shutters to protect interior from marauders (both animals and human).
- Record serial numbers of anything of value left behind.

Sporting goods – fishing rods and equipment, water skis, toys, etc. – if they're not secured, locked up, hidden or both don't expect them to be there next spring. Lock them up or be prepared to lose them!

- Make a list of where everything is and make copies – store one copy on your home computer and put a copy with property that will go back up to the cottage on the first or next trip (use your phone to take pictures).
- Know which police force patrols your cottage area (which OPP detachment and the phone number).

Police are reminding residents to contact the OPP Communications Centre immediately at 1-888-310-1122 to report any suspicious activity or suspicious vehicles in the area. Information such as suspect physical descriptions, suspect vehicles and direction of travel are useful tools for investigators.

Crime Stoppers allows the public to submit their information anonymously online at crimestopperssdm.com or by calling the tip line at 1-800-222-8577 24 hours a day. Your information could make you eligible for a cash reward of up to $2,000.

Attention Residents of Minden Hills

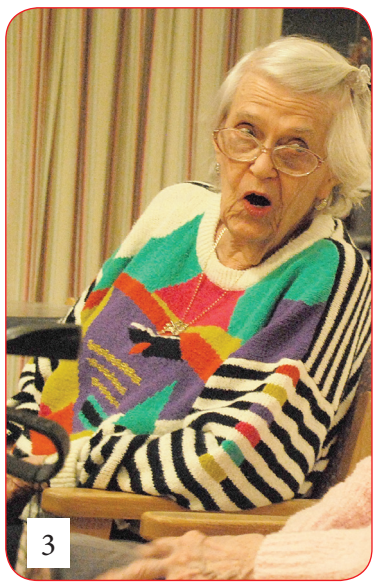
The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO
Proud to be part of our community.

Please note that Township of Minden Hills information ads will begin appearing in the Minden Times on page three starting Wednesday January 7, 2015.

Please check the Minden Times weekly for important information about your Township.

1

2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4

Songs of the Season

1. Children and adult leaders sing during a concert put on by local Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers at Highland Wood on Dec. 17. They entertained with holiday songs and then gave a handmade gift to each audience member.
2. One Christmas elf hands out a handmade ornament to a resident of Highland Wood long-term care home.
3. Highland Wood resident Eileen Parker sings along to a Christmas tune.
4. Kids and adult helpers sing during a concert put on by local Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers. /Jenn Watt Staff

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More info and job description visit:
careers.contemporarysecurity.ca
under Private Security Venue Coordinator

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County Life

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Jenn Watt, Managing Editor
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Welcome to the New Year 2015

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Holiday Greetings from the
Minden Drug Store
Thank you for your patronage.
Wishing you good times and great health.

Minden Drug Store est. 1949

Come in and check out our **Boxing Week** in-store specials Starting Sat Dec 27!

Open 7 days a week - Monday to Saturday 9 - 6 pm, Fridays till 7 pm, Sundays 10-4 pm
Please note we will be Closed Thurs Dec 25, Fri Dec 26 and Thurs Jan 1

Homemade Stew Annual Show

Canning Lake recording artist Ray Montford plays a piece titled *No One Like You,* dedicated to Jean Beliveau at Homemade Stew on Dec. 13. The evening at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion served to showcase the musical talent from across the Haliburton Highlands. It will become an annual event. /Angelica Blenich

The Township of Minden Hills

Family Fun New Years Eve

When: Wednesday December 31st

Where: SG Nesbitt Arena

What to expect: 5:30-8:30: Skating, Tobogganing

6:00-8:00: Hot Chocolate and Horse drawn wagon rides.

Warm up by the fire and roast a marshmallow or two!

All for FREE!

Please note: Skates and toboggans not provided

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$450,000

OTTER LAKE TRANQUILITY

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EAST OF HALIBURTON

Custom home on 8.36 Ac. Private pretty setting, 15 min to town. 3BR, 2pc, 4pc. Att dbl & det single garage w/ carport & workshop.

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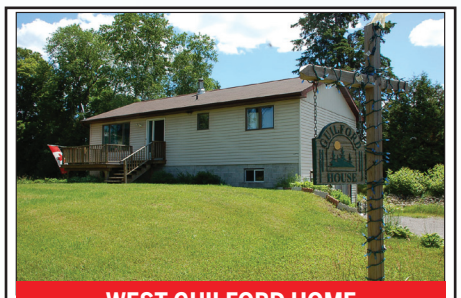

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Private, close to Haliburton, 3BR Royal Home. Spacious. Ensuite to Master, Recroom. Acreage for privacy.

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WEST OF HALIBURTON

Sprawling 5BR bungalow with many upgrades. Dbl det garage. Huge deck. Very spacious family home. Town sewers.

$165,000

PAYNES ROAD

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$145,000

GOODERHAM HOME & BARN

3BR with historic character. Wraparound porch. Walk to village. 30x20 barn in Great condition. Super value!

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VACANT LOTS

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1.5 Acre Lot. Walk to Lake .

$32,500

GLEBE ROAD

Prestigious Area!

$79,800

DRAG RIVER LOT

420 ft / 4 Acres

$85,000

Highway 121

22 Ac south of Minden

$55,900

Fearrey county warden for 12th time

By Chad Ingram

Challenges and excitement awaits new council as it embarks on new term

The Haliburton County council for 2014 to 2018 was swown into office on Dec. 16. From left are Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin, Minden Hills Deputy-Reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey, Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen, Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton and Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge. Fearrey was elected warden for 2015.
Chad Ingram

Make it an even dozen.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey will be warden of Haliburton County for 2015.

It will be the 12th time he's held the post.

Fearrey was elected to the position by his county council colleagues at the inaugural meeting of the new council in Minden on Dec. 16.

County council consists of the reeves and deputy-reeves of the four lower-tier townships.

"I've always known that when Murray speaks, we know what he's thinking, and I really admire that," said Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge, as she nominated Fearrey.

Her motion was seconded by Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

"It was 40 years ago this week that I first wore this chain," Fearrey said after being presented with the chain of office by 2014 warden, Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton. "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of dedicated councillors, staff and associates."

Fearrey said he'd like to start the term off with a special meeting of council to consider a vision for the upcoming term.

"In the year ahead, we will have the same challenge we have every year," he said, that being balancing the county's books. The county has an annual budget of approximately $19 million, about $13 million of which comes from taxation.

"As we know, the province is not in a good financial position."

Ontario's debt sits at approximately $280 billion and provincial funding has been decreasing for a number of years.

The county's chief planning document, its official plan, will undergo review in 2015 and the Ontario 55+ Winter Games are coming to the county in February.

"Staff tell us that they have no more room for records," Fearrey continued, adding that a digitized records system was also on the county's to-do list.

The new OPP billing formula that will come into effect in 2015 will see the county's collective policing bill nearly double from $3.3 to $6.3 million during the next five years.

"You may think it's gone, but I don't think we should just drop it," Fearrey said. County council lobbied hard against the billing framework throughout 2014, to no avail.

The political veteran offered special congratulations to Devolin and Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts, both new additions to county council.

The rest of council is comprised of returning politicians, including Fearrey, Partridge, Burton, Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt and Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen.

Fearrey served as warden in 2011 and 2012 and had said at the end of that year that he wouldn't hold the position again.

Fearrey told the paper Tuesday night this term would make it an even dozen.

"I won't be warden 13 times," he said.

MPP Laurie Scott attended the ceremony, congratulating councillors and MP Barry Devolin's executive assistant Jamie Schmale brought greetings from the MP.

Rev. Bev Hicks gave an invocation.

"You have a big ship to steer," Hicks told councillors, and there may be some dark and foggy waters ahead. Just let your conscience be your guide."

County council will hold its first regular meeting of the term Dec. 17 at 9 a.m.

Wishing you a holiday wrapped in happiness. All the best to you and yours, Merry Christmas and Many Thanks for your support..

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As the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) marks 100 years of service, it is adapting to meet the changing needs of today's Ontario. Dramatic changes have swept the world of work in the century since the WSIB's founding in 1914. They include industrialization, immigration, unionization, globalization, two world wars and revolutions in technology.

In short, the WSIB is starting its second century of service in a world of work that Ontarians of 1914 would not recognize.

The WSIB is rooted in principles founded more than 100 years ago by Sir William Meredith, who laid out the foundation for a no-fault insurance model designed to protect workers and employers alike. The system was to be funded entirely by employers, publicly-administered and compulsory, with the exception of a few large enterprises. Known as "the historic compromise" – this was a solution whereby workers gave up the right to sue their employers for guaranteed protection from loss of income, regardless of fault.

Today, the WSIB is one of the largest insurance organizations in North America, providing workplace injury insurance for five million workers with more than 290,000 employers. In a typical year the WSIB handles 200,000 claims for injured or ill workers.

In recent years, the WSIB has made significant progress in becoming more responsive and accountable. It now offers faster and better care for injured workers. Thanks to enhanced focus on customer service and technology, 92 per cent of injury claims are now decided within two weeks.

WSIB remains committed to helping injured and ill workers return to work; and last year alone, WSIB return to work staff made 26,000 on-site visits. These ground-breaking approaches to worker reintegration, combined with faster access to more effective health care,have resulted in more than two million fewer productive days lost to our economy than just a few years ago.

That is good news for both workers and employers alike. As the WSIB continues to serve the workers and employers of Ontario, it is providing injured and ill workers with care that is faster and better than ever before.

-Submitted

Hi Everyone! I'm Addison Grace Kulas helping Santa with my New Baby Sister Ava Lee Kulas! My Grand Dad, Bill Kulas and the Whole Kulas family would like to wish neighbours, friends and clients much joy and laughter at Christmas time and the whole year through!

Merry Christmas!

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And remember, if you are planning to SELL or BUY property in 2015 give my Grand Dad Bill Kulas, sales Representative a call. You'll be glad you did! 705-286-2911 ext 444

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26 collisions with deer since Nov 1

From Nov. 1 to Dec. 18, Haliburton Highlands OPP officers have investigated 26 motor vehicle collisions involving deer.

As drivers, many of us are aware that any contact between a motor vehicle and an animal can result in significant damage and in some cases even death. Drivers are being asked to be vigilant and to watch for large wild animals crossing roadways throughout the area as many of these animals are making their way to higher ground in preparation for winter.

- On average, there is a motor vehicle/wild animal collision every 38 minutes in Ontario.
- One out of every 17 motor vehicle collisions involves a wild animal
- 89 per cent occur on two-lane roads outside of urban areas
- 86 per cent occur in good weather

Wild animals are unpredictable at all times. However, there are two peak times when the risk of a collision is highest: May and June and from October to January.

Reduce Your Collision Risk

Watch

Scan the road ahead from shoulder to shoulder. When you see wildlife beside the road, slow down and pass carefully as they may suddenly bolt onto the road.

Watch for the yellow wildlife warning signs that indicate an area of increased risk. Slow down when travelling through these areas.

Use high beams at night where possible and watch for glowing eyes of animals.

Steer

Stay in control. Watch your speed and take extra precautions when driving at night as visibility is greatly reduced. Slowing down will give you that extra second to respond.

Never swerve suddenly. This could cause your vehicle to go out of control or head into oncoming traffic.

Brake

Brake firmly if an animal is standing on, or crossing, the road. Never assume the animal will move out of your way.

Stop

Stop as safely as possible if a wild animal is crossing the road. Remember, deer often move in groups. If you see one, know there are likely more in the vicinity

If possible, avoid driving during dusk or dawn when most wildlife collisions occur. Swerving to avoid hitting a wild animal may result in a more serious collision. If hitting a wild animal is unavoidable, remember to stay in control.

People who live adjacent to highways are encouraged not to feed deer during the winter as this increases the probability of motor vehicle collisions, resulting in more personal injuries and increased deer mortality.

Motorists should watch for these potential problem areas and drive carefully when passing through them.

For more information, please refer to the Ministry of Transportation website at www.mto.gov.on.ca.

For public safety tips residents may check out the OPP website at www.opp.ca.

Minden team win Oshawa bonspiel

On Saturday, Dec. 13, a Bantam team playing out of the Minden Curling Club was victorious at the Bantam Invitational Curling Bonspiel at the Oshawa Curling Club.

The team consists of, from left, vice Emma Cox, skip Alyssa Denyer, second Tori Hawley and lead Emma Seed-Binnie.

The girls played solidly from start to finish and their hours of practice really showed. The team is coached by Russ Duhaime. Their next action is the Toronto Curling Association play downs during the Christmas break. The team is also preparing for the Ontario Curling Association play downs in 2015.

The team wants to thank their sponsor for their generous support: Scotto Electric, Dollo's Foodland, The Rotary Club of Fenelon Falls and Subway Restaurant of Fenelon Falls.

A second team from the Minden Club also did very well at the same bonspiel coming third in the sixteen team competition. The team is made up of skip Cody Williams, vice Sam Pilcher, second Seb Muli and lead Dan Murdoch. They are coached by Scotty Boyd.

Submitted by Sean Hawley

The Games Are Coming...
Haliburton Highlands
Ontario 55+ Winter Games
Jeux d'hiver de l'Ontario des 55+
2015
Volunteers Needed for the 2015 Winter Games
Register online at
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Housing Help Centre implementation begins in January

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2015, residents in the County of Haliburton and in Kawartha Lakes will be able to access housing and homelessness services through the newly created Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Help Centre.

The Housing Help model will help integrate and co-ordinate processes and services focusing on homelessness prevention and housing. The centre will focus on three critical factors: simplified access to services, a broad range of services and quality customer service.

"Our goal is to make it as easy and efficient for those requiring service to get the assistance they need," explained Rod Sutherland, director of health and social services.

Housing Help staff will be able to support residents through a range of services for housing related needs. Services can be provided through Investment in Affordable Housing funded initiatives, the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, social assistance programs and municipally funded programs. The integration of services allows for an expanded range of programs through the centre, such as the new Emergency Home Repair program. This program is currently being developed and will be managed in co-ordination with the new Kawartha-Haliburton Renovates program, recently implemented as part of the Investment in Affordable Housing initiative.

Housing Help services will be available to all residents of the county and the city. Some benefit programs are limited and are only available to low income residents. As a community we are extremely fortunate to have the organizations, staff and volunteers we do. The Housing Help Centre will continue to co-ordinate with the community and other agencies to support vulnerable residents.

The implementation of the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Help Centre begins in January 2015. Housing Help staff will initially be based from Housing Services offices in Lindsay and Haliburton, but will be available in all areas of the city and county. Dedicated Housing Help sites will be finalized in the coming months as the transition to the full model continues.

A detailed list of the services will be available on the County of Haliburton website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca as well as the Kawartha Lakes Housing Help Centre website at www.klhhousinghelp.ca. Information will also be provided to Service Centres and libraries throughout Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes, as well as community agencies. Housing Help staff can be reached by phone at 705-878-9367 or toll free 1-800-463-4120, or by email HousingHelp@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca.

-Submitted

UPCOMING

Community Events

PARISH
HOME INSPECTIONS

United Church Community Curling Bonspiel and Potluck Dinner

Sunday, Jan. 4, 1 p.m. at Minden Curling Club, 50 Prentice St., Minden. Enjoy an afternoon of 16 teams fun curling, individual entries, no curling experience necessary. Cost $10 for adults and $5 under 21. Curlers and interested spectators bring a potluck dish for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Contact: Don 705-286-1305 to sign up.

Make Peace with Winter

When: Jan. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Various locations
Try a little winter. Embrace the winter wonders of the Haliburton Highlands with a full day sampler of unique, fun, and active adventures. Your choice of dogsledding, snowshoeing, skiing, ice fishing, sleigh ride and more.
Contact: Barrie Martin of Yours Outdoors 705-754-3436 or info@youroutdoors.ca

Juried Photography Exhibition

When: Jan. 7 to Feb. 7
Where: Agnes Jamieson Gallery
176 Bobcaygeon Road Minden
A call for photographers to show their creativity and prowess with their camera for a numbers of different proposed themes. www.mindenculturalcentre.com

Those Other Movies

When: Thursday, Jan. 8, 4:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
Where: Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion
Movie Showings
Contact: northernlightstheatre@gmail.com

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association

When: Saturday February 14 10-3pm Family Day Weekend
Where: proposed location @ intersection of Rail Trail B103 and HCSA #9 in Donald
Come and join us for a BBQ lunch, meet other club members and Directors and see how a Groomer works.
We will have $5 burgers and $3 dogs, drinks and chips. There will be on the spot draw prizes.
Contact: hcsa.ca or ejesseman@bell.net

Legion Events

Branch 624, Wilberforce

Jan Simon PRO
Monday Bid Euchre 7:00PM (last game of the year)
Tuesday General Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30pm (last ;game of the year
Friday Pool 1:30pm
Spaghetti Dinner 5:00-7:00pm
Jam Session 7:30pm Come to play or listen to great music
Saturday Meat Draw 2:00pm -5:00pm - Early Bird 3pm sharp

Branch 129, Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571
Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1pm
Tuesdays: Open dart night at 7pm
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 pm start
Bingo Doors open at 6 pm, Bingo starts at 7 pm - $500 Jackpot $1000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month
Thursdays:
General Meeting Second Thursday of the month starting at 7:30 pm. All members urged to attend
Ladies Auxiliary Last Thursday of the month at 1 pm
Fridays:
Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 pm, Last draw at 6:30 pm, Tickets are $2 per draw…Chester Howse, MC
Saturdays:
50/50 Draw 4 pm draw, Tickets are $1 each from noon onwards
Sundays: Breakfast Second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9:30 am – 1 pm $6 per person. Occasional volunteers are needed.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call the Legion today for more information 705 457 2571
Please come out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

Branch 636, Minden 705-286-4541

Open Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fridays til 9pm, Sundays 1-5.
Air-conditioned clubroom open to the public, Patio open, Wifi, debit machine, table trivia, dart boards
Big Euchre, 1st Sunday of the month, includes lunch
Lunches **noon to 2pm**
Mon to Thursday: full menu and daily specials.
Friday lunch menu: beer-battered fish with fries or onion rings. Friday supper 5-7pm also chicken wings
Wednesdays: Meat Draw at noon, $8 buys 8 chances for butcher-quality meat.
Ladies Darts on **Thursdays**

Recurring Events

Haliburton Highlands Hand Weavers & Spinners Guild Open Studios

When: Daytime - every Tues. 1-4
Evening - the 3rd. Wed. of every month
Where: Zion United Church, Carnarvon
No experience needed
Contact: Pat @ 705-286-6042 or andreacoysh@gmail.com

Dorset Quilters & Needle Workers Group

When: Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
$1 per person

Dorset Evening Yoga Classes

When: Mondays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
$75 for 6 classes or $15 per class. For more information contact Caroline Leeder at huttcaroline@gmail.com or 705-767-1177

Toys donated to Point In Time

More than $3,000 worth of toys were donated to Point in Time on Dec. 16 at the Bargain Shop in Haliburton Village. The second annual toy drive organized by the store asked customers to purchase items to be donated. Three large bins were filled to the brim with toys, gift cards, mitts and more. In total about $3,200 was collected. From left, Bargain Shop manager Steve Davies, Point in Time program manager Dan Bajorek and Point in Time early interventionist Cynthia Hutchinson.
Angelica Blenich Staff

Point in Time
Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
Date: Dec. 17/14
FOOD FOR KIDS c/o
Pay to the order of Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents
$5,440.00
FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY
100 dollars
THE LAKELANDS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
Memo:
Signature

Realtors give to Food for Kids

The Lakelands Association of Realtors (Muskoka, Haliburton and Orillia) executive officer Crystal Henderson, left, president-elect and local realtor Tom Wilkinson, local realtors Hilary Elia, Karen Nimigon, Andrew Hodgson, Lee Gauthier and Mark Dennys who presented a $5,440 cheque to Food for Kids co-ordinator Aaron Walker and Point in Time's Dan Bajorek and Ginny Urquhart. The donation was made through the Ontario Realtors Care Foundation. Darren Lum Staff

Toy drive supports 4Cs

Firefighters accepted a toy from Austin Morris and Kiefer Harrison from Haliburton on Saturday, Dec. 13, as part of their annual toy drive held at Todd's Independent. The Dysart fire department has been doing the drive for five years. They also took donations for the food bank. Pictured from left, firefighters Mike Fearrey and Gord Divell, Morris, Harrison, firefighters Ryan VanLieshout and Murray Miscio. Jenn Watt Staff

Ladies Auxiliary donates to HHHSF

The Haliburton Legion Branch 129 Ladies Auxiliary presented a $1,000 donation to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, to go towards the Making Moments Matter Campaign for palliative care on Dec. 14. The funds were raised through the 50/50 draw which takes place at the Legion breakfast every second and fourth Sunday of the month. Auxiliary president Cheryl James said she was very proud of the breakfasts, which are put on by the ladies auxiliary, and encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to contact her at 705-457-5061. "I want to thank one and all for the support they have given to the breakfasts and encourage everyone to keep coming," said James. Front row from left, HHHS president and CEO Varouj Eskedjian, HHHSF executive director Dale Walker, Ladies Auxiliary president Cheryl James, HHHSF chairman Peter Oyler. /Angelica Blenich Staff

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Driven to quit

One of the most common New Year's resolutions is quitting smoking but most smokers are addicted to nicotine, making quitting difficult. Research shows that the support of friends and family can make the difference when it comes to quitting successfully. As part of the launch of its ninth Driven to Quit Challenge, the Canadian Cancer Society is sharing some tools and tips to arm Ontarians to help their loved ones quit smoking.

"Strategies such as nagging or guilt trips don't typically work in getting people to make changes," says John Atkinson, director, cancer prevention and tobacco control, Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario division. "But a tool that friends and family can use to start a positive conversation about quitting smoking is offering to be a buddy for the Driven to Quit Challenge."

The Society's Driven to Quit Challenge is a health promotion campaign in association with McNeil Consumer Healthcare, a division of Johnson & Johnson Inc., the makers of Nicoderm® and Nicorette®. The challenge is designed to motivate adult Ontario tobacco users to quit smoking or other forms of tobacco for the month of March for the chance to win a car or cash prizes. Signing up with a support buddy is encouraged. This year's grand prize of a car is provided by Parkway Motors of Hamilton, Ontario.

"As it often takes a smoker several attempts to beat tobacco addiction for good, every quit attempt is important," emphasizes Atkinson. "The encouragement of family and friends can be an influential part of the quit process and we want to ensure that all quit buddies have the knowledge and tools they need to provide the best support possible."

While it's important to remember that no one can make someone quit smoking, the Canadian Cancer Society offers the following tips on how to be a great support for someone making a quit attempt:

Bring up smoking in a non-judgmental way that shows you are genuinely concerned for their well-being and recognize that quitting is not always an easy thing to do.

Ask how you can help. It will show you care and that you really want to support your friend or loved one.

Show them that you believe in them and let your friend or loved one know that you will be there for the ups and downs.

Encourage them to access free resources proven to help people quit, such as the Canadian Cancer Society's Smokers' Helpline (SmokersHelpline.ca).

Give them an added incentive or a goal to work towards, such as the chance to win a car by signing up for the Driven to Quit Challenge (DriventoQuit.ca).

Registration for the Driven to Quit Challenge is open until Feb. 28, 2015. All participants receive discount coupons for Nicoderm® or Nicorette® nicotine replacement therapy products. Entrants who register with a support buddy will receive a second entry into the grand prize draw, doubling their chances of winning. Registered support buddies are also eligible to win a prize. To enter and for more details about the challenge, go to DriventoQuit.ca or call the Canadian Cancer Society's Smokers' Helpline at 1 877-513-5333.

Since 2006, the Driven to Quit Challenge has inspired more than 213,000 quit attempts in Ontario.

Facts about quitting smoking

The majority of smokers in Ontario want to quit and know that it is the No. 1 thing that they can do for their health.

It often requires several attempts to beat tobacco addiction for good. The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit suggests that it takes the average smoker 30 tries to quit successfully. This means that every quit attempt is important.

Research shows if people who smoke can stop for one month they are five times more likely to be able to remain smoke-free for good.

Quitlines, such as Smokers' Helpline, greatly increase the chances that a smoker will quit, more than doubling the chances of quitting successfully.

Quitline support combined with medication (such as nicotine replacement therapy) can more than triple the chances of quitting successfully.

Submitted

Realtors give to Cottage Dreams

Local realtors belonging to The Lakelands Association of Realtors covering Muskoka, Haliburton and Orillia present a donation of more than $1,500 to Cottage Dreams on Dec. 17 at the organization's location within the Village Barn in Haliburton. According to the association, each month Lakelands members donate to the Ontario Realtors Care Foundation as part of their membership in the Association. At the end of the year, charities within each of the regions Lakelands members serve are selected to receive a share of these donations. This year Cottage Dreams Cancer Recovery Initiative was selected as a recipient, with the funds going to help three families with placements in 2015. The donation was presented to Cottage Dreams program manager Debbie Cumber, far right, by Lakelands president elect Tom Wilkinson, third from right. From left, local agents, Marcia Bell, Lee Gauthier, Jacquie Barry, Karen Nimigon, Mark Dennys, Wilkinson, Lakelands executive officer Crystal Henderson and Cumber. /Angelica Blenich Staff

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